

CENTRE STAGE

Newsletter - Spring 2013



This year's summer musical is the classic feel good production Annie. With songs such as Hard Knock Life, Tomorrow and You're Never Fully Dressed without a Smile this promises to be a fabulous evening's entertainment, while also allowing us to showcase some of the amazing young talent in our company. Why not put a note in your diary for 17th to 22nd June 2013 to see this wonderful show at Eaglescliffe Community Centre.

In February this year, over 400 people enjoyed Centre Stage's production of the classic pantomime ALADDIN. Kieron Layton took the lead role, 'assisted' by Phillip Kenyon as Widow Twankey as he battled the evil magician, Abanazar played by Jim Smith. Many of the regular Centre Stage members took to the stage supported by many new faces as the crowd cheered, hissed, booed and sang their way through the show.



A THOUSAND WELCOMES ...

The Centre Stage family has been growing recently with the addition of a host of new members. Many joined in time to perform in Aladdin and we have added even more new faces to the cast of Annie.

We would also like to welcome back a whole host of past members who have rejoined the company this year.

Next summer's musical, *The Sound of Music*, will be Centre Stage's 50th show. The show will take place from the 23rd to 28th June 2014. Watch this space for more details on this landmark for the company and don't forget to make a date for the 49th, next year's pantomime *Little Miss Muffet* from January 27th to February 1st.



NEWS FROM CENTRE STAGE



Beth Mullen dropped off some exciting news on a flying visit from her studies in London. She has been nominated for a Laurence Olivier Bursary Award worth up to £7,000 towards her studies. Everyone at Centre Stage wishes her good luck for her audition in June.

Charles & Carol Tait are celebrating the birth of their daughter, Martha, born in February this year.

Violinist, **James Grant** is now the leader of the Tees Valley Youth Orchestra with fellow Centre Stage member, **Hannah Hunter**, leading the cello section.

Alicia Carroll achieved A* grades in Fine Art and an A in photography in her BTEC National Diploma and is now at Northumbria University studying Fine Arts. She also works in the café at the Sage in Gateshead.

Ethan Carroll finished year 11 at St. Bedes school in style with 5 A*, 5A and 1B grade in his GCSE's.

Ellie Marshall won the starring role in Stockton Stage's performance of Annie at Billingham Forum in March.

Centre Stage continues to support the Butterwick Hospice and recently sent the takings from a plant sale to this worthwhile cause.

Tom Wells performed in Stockton Riverside College's production of Beauty and the Beast at the Arc Theatre in Stockton in December.

Mike Wood took to the stage in Billingham Players' excellent production of The Good Hope by Lee Hall, in October and is also appearing in Hard Times for Billingham Theatre Upstairs in April.

Joanne Roots obtained a degree from the Arts Educational School in London. She gained a 2.1 BA (Honours) in Performance Studies and now runs her own dance school called FYI - Fierce Young Individuals.



Paul's Letter from Spain!

Having worked at The Royal Opera House during his Christmas break from his London College and turning 21, Paul Simpson is now studying in Barcelona for 5 months at the Institut del Teatre where he is training under Andreu Carandell and Esther Palleja Lozano, two people considered to be leading revolutionists in contemporary European theatre. He has classes in Expressive Movement and Voice, Ensemble Singing, Stage Acrobatics, Movement by Impulse, Modern Devising, Puppetry, Scenography, Dramaturgy, Basic Directing, Bilingual Theatre and Spanish Theatre History! He is studying Spanish as a language and is "so excited to be living in such a beautiful, vibrant, colourful city" where he sees the most stunning architecture and public artworks from Gaudi, Dalí and Picasso and amazing artists from the Spanish Golden Age. He hopes to experience too some beautiful little Rioja bars in the foothills of Mount Tibidabo.



Becca's Dubai Diary



GREETINGS FROM DUBAI!

Summer in Dubai is unbearably hot but I am pleased to say the weather has now cooled down and I can enjoy sitting out on the balcony again. Towards the end of last year, I joined a local Girl Guiding unit to continue my hobbies from England but an amateur dramatics group like Centre Stage still remains to be found...! Centre Stage has received a couple of special deliveries from Dubai at Christmas that will have added some genuine Arabic sparkle to the Aladdin costumes. When my mum came out last year she brought a shopping list from Mrs Tait and we were able to find some beautiful, authentic braiding – just right for Aladdin. I will be popping over to the UK in April for a get together with family and friends, I look forward to catching up the all the news from Centre Stage then.

Lots of Love - Becca

Don't forget to check out our website at
www.centre-stage-online.co.uk